

Council on Postsecondary Education  
February 4, 2002

## New Program Approval Master of Arts in Teaching Morehead State University

Action: The staff recommends that the council approve the Master of Arts in Teaching proposed by Morehead State University. The program would be registered in CIP 13.0101 (Education, General).

The council staff recommends approval of this program based on evidence of:

- The need for teachers in secondary education.
- The program's potential to bring people with undergraduate degrees in other fields into the teaching profession.
- Alignment of the program with the Education Professional Standards Board requirements, KERA expectations, and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education standards.
- The use of distance learning technologies to meet student needs.

The EPSB requires teacher preparation programs to develop alternative routes to certification to attract professionals in other fields and graduates with bachelor degrees into teaching. The MAT degree is one of the most effective ways to meet this requirement. Northern Kentucky University and Eastern Kentucky University have recently implemented MAT programs for this reason.

The proposed MAT allows adults who have completed undergraduate degrees in teaching fields to complete certification requirements, a master's degree, and Rank II in two years. One track is for emergency teachers employed in local schools; a second is aimed at potential teachers who are in other professions. Both tracks come together in the second year, requiring students to be employed by a local district and to participate in the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program.

MoSU is delivering courses through the Kentucky Virtual University and Kentucky TeleLinking Network to ensure that offerings are available to working students. Funds are available to develop other online course modules.

Given that all institutions must develop alternative routes to certification, the council staff has identified representatives from all eight universities to work with the KYVU to coordinate MAT distance education courses. A student will be able to take courses from other institutions and apply those to a degree at her home institution.

The MoSU program conforms to the EPSB New Teacher Standards, KERA standards, state curriculum requirements, and national accreditation standards. All students must pass the PRAXIS content area exams prior to admission and the PRAXIS principles of learning exam to graduate.

Using the Kentucky Postsecondary Program Proposal System, MoSU posted the proposed program to the council's Web site. It was reviewed without objection by other Kentucky public and independent institutions. The MoSU Board of Regents approved the program at its September 22, 2001, meeting.

An overview of the program, prepared by MoSU, is attached.

**Proposed Master of Arts in Teaching Degree:  
Secondary Teaching Option  
Department of Leadership and Secondary Education  
Morehead State University**

## **Background**

A recent projection by the U.S. Department of Education estimates a need for as many as 2,000,000 teachers over the next decade at all educational levels. Some of the shortage areas include: science, mathematics, family and consumer health, Spanish, and health education. In response to evidence of teacher shortages in Kentucky, the State Legislature passed House Bill 77. This bill focuses on the development of alternative routes to certification. In fall 2000, the Educational Professional Standards Board (as mandated by KRS 161.028 and KRS 161.030) created six alternative routes to certification and these were distributed to college and universities so that programs could be developed to meet the needs of adults who wanted to teach.

The Master of Arts in Teaching will make it possible for people who have a talent for teaching to return to school and fulfill the requirements for teacher certification. This program will allow us to reach a new population of adults and increase the number of certified teachers in classrooms throughout the university's service region.

The proposed program fulfills all requirements set forth by the EPSB. It addresses the need for alternative routes to certification by providing adults with the course work to complete a degree while maintaining their work obligations. In addition, the College of Education will have a new way to supply qualified teachers to the classrooms of eastern Kentucky.

## **Analysis**

The MAT degree is designed primarily for individuals who have earned an undergraduate degree in a state-approved teacher preparation content area and are currently working (1) in a public school and have been granted a temporary provisional certificate or (2) in business, industry, or a service occupation and wish to complete the teacher certification requirements for a selected secondary program. The program will be implemented in the fall 2002.

This program will permit a candidate to complete the content area and professional course work, supervised teaching, and internship in two years. Use of a variety of course delivery options will support candidate access to courses and field experiences. Currently two courses are offered through the KYVU, one course is offered through KTLN, and two courses are Web enhanced. In addition, grant funds have been allocated to provide faculty members with release time or a stipend to develop online course modules for the supervised teaching courses. The scheduling of onsite teaching courses will take into account the typical work schedules of program candidates.

Students admitted to this program must meet all admission requirements and complete the Program Entrance and Design Interview and Check-Sheet Development Process. Candidates who successfully complete all program requirements will be awarded a Master of Arts in Teaching: Secondary Option and will be eligible for full certification at the Rank II Level.